

Response:

The Examiner stated that the applicants reply filed on March 17, 2003 was not fully responsive to the prior Office Action, lacking the statement as to a lack of new matter under 37 CFR 1.125(b), and a clean copy of the substitute specification.

The Examiner further stated that the specification sent by the applicant on September 21, 2001 did not match the proposed changes that the applicant requested. The applicant proposed removing from page 3, line 13-18 "If the requirements for a particular design". When the specification as originally submitted stated, "If a particular design requires."

The applicant has searched his records and has not found a paper hard copy of the original filing. The digital file in possession of the applicant contains this error, and was the only copy available to the applicant at the time the applicant responded on March 17, 2003. The applicant suspects he generated the error in not making a final save of the file, after printing the copy that was mailed to the Examiner. The applicant has sent a copy of the file currently in his possession, and has labeled it Exhibit E (for erroneous).

Happily, it is obvious that the requested removal of page 3, line 13-18 starting at "If the", and the removal of Page 4, line 28, "The variation depicted in FIG. 2 is capable of rigidity as well as articulation.", do not add any new subject matter to the present application.

The applicant herein states that the present correction of informalities, and the reply filed on March 17, 2003 contain not new subject matter. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, and patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.



Clare L. Hoke Jr. / Inventor 9/24/03

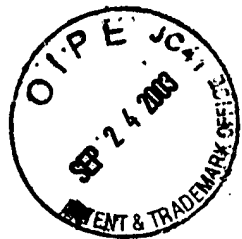


Exhibit E

Serial No.: 09/918,761
Examiner: Brittain, James R
Art Unit: 3677

Title: Novel Articulated and or Rigid Joinery

Applicant: Clare L. Hoke Jr.



Novel Articulated and or Rigid Joinery

Background of the Invention

1. Field of Invention

The present invention relates to wood and or metal working, furniture, cabinetry, and architecture. Specifically discussed is a joint / hardware, capable of rigid joinery, lateral articulation, (movement) axial articulation, and methods for fabrication thereof.

2. Description of Prior Art.

Joinery predates recorded history. Civilizations which have been geographically or culturally isolated have developed unique variations on joinery techniques; Japanese vs. German Joinery for example. Similarly, certain eras have emphasized joinery preferences, either for technical abilities, or fashion peccadilloes. With the passing of Joinery Guilds, information on the history and techniques of Joinery have been well documented on a global basis. Joinery represents a crowded art, where decades may pass before subtle developments may be recognized. Recent developments in the field of joinery have involved the employment of new man made materials and adhesives, far more extensively than mechanical design improvements.

Cabinet and architectural hardware has followed a near identical historical path as joinery, with its inception predating recorded history. Recently design and functional changes have accelerated in the hardware markets, due in part from increased market demand, and reduced start up costs derived from technological advances. These technological benefits are still outside the realm of small businesses however. For example, small cabinet shops must fill the demand for custom hardware solutions from stock parts available through hardware suppliers. The ability to custom fabricate hardware solutions is outside the realm of the majority of furniture, cabinet, or architectural firms.

The present invention will serve to provide multiple solutions for artisans, as well as furniture, cabinet, and architectural firms. Serving in two forms, the present invention may be employed as joinery, in a non articulating manner, or may function as a new type of articulating hardware. As such the Present Invention broaches the line between joinery and hardware. The process of fabrication also places the Present Invention, and its multiple custom variations within the abilities of furniture, cabinet, and architectural firms, large or small.

Summary of the Present Invention:

Accordingly, several objects and advantages of the present invention include:

- 1). Aesthetically beautiful joinery
- 2). Esthetically pleasing hardware
- 3). Ease of fabrication
- 4). Low cost
- 5). Increased opportunity for custom applications
- 6). Multiple custom variations of the Present Invention may be readily conceptualized and readily executed to fill needs of artisans as well as furniture, cabinet and architecture firms
- 7). Extremely high lateral stability when either employed as rigid joinery, or when employed with articulation
- 8). The Present Invention may be employed in a fixed manner, may be employed with lateral articulation, may be employed with axial articulation, and may be employed with any combination of the above in multiple variations

Brief Description of Drawings:

Fig. 1 Depicts a cross sectional view of the Present Invention.

Fig. 2 Depicts a variation of the preferred embodiment of the Present Invention in cross section.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

In wood, metal, furniture, cabinetry and architectural work, joinery refers to the unification of two or more separate objects, with the implication of melding, so as to render the two or more said objects as indistinguishably united; while hardware refers to objects which may serve to join, articulate, provide functionality and or decorate, but remain distinct from the materials and or the concept of seamless union. The Present Invention exhibits novel versatility in that it may be employed as joinery, in a rigid manner, and may also function as a new type of hardware, capable of lateral and axial movement, and modularity. The preferred embodiment of the Present Invention represents the best of both classical and modern perspectives in that while it may employ modern materials, adhesives and novel techniques, the Present Invention is not bound strictly to modern materials or specific techniques to function properly.

FIG. 1 shows a cross sectional perspective of the preferred embodiment of the present invention. Part 3 represents material and or a housing wherein a channel 5, is formed. Part 7 represents a sleeve or tube which is to be placed within channel 5. If the requirements of a particular design require the length of the resultant part be short enough that part 3 may be bored directly, or if part 3 may be extruded, formed, or in some other way fabricated so that the diameter of the opening in part 3 is functionally adequately proximal the shape of part 7, formed and in fact structurally adequate to alleviate the channel aspect 5 formed in part 3 (ie. snug) , or fabricated in such a way to alleviate the need for part 7 entirely, then the following procedure of filling channel 5 may be avoided.

Because the preferred embodiment of the present invention incorporates bringing multiple variations of the Present Invention and fabrication thereof within the grasp of most artisans, fabricators and firms, it is herein suggested that in the preferred embodiment of the Present Invention, channel 5 may be filled with adhesives and or additives, said combination being capable of adhering part 3 to part 7, and exhibiting appropriate structure: said adhesives including but not limited to Epoxy, Resin, Polyester, and Water, based adhesives; with said additives including but not being limited to saw dust, iron oxide, semi precious minerals, graphite, fiberglass, kevlar, or powdered metals, for reasons of appearance or structure.

In the preferred embodiment of the Present Invention part 9 is depicted as a solid dowel. Clearly this aspect may be replaced with a sleeve, sleeve / dowel combination, mosaic, or any number of variations thereof. Likewise the materials employed in all aspects of the preferred embodiment of the present invention are non determinative, and interchangeable. The tolerances between sleeve 7 and dowel 9 in the preferred embodiment of the Present Invention are capable of extreme variation as well, depending upon application. In practice, part 7 is breached axially to permit the joining / fastening of a second object 11 to part 9. The various radii of part 9, as well as the various possible breach sizes to part 7, serve to determine the tolerances between part 3, and part 11. Part 13 represents a machine or wood screw which is employed to fasten part 11 to part 9.

In fabricating the preferred embodiment of the Present Invention, part 3 is produced larger on the open end of channel 5, so that part 7 may be fully emersed in adhesives, and potentially adhesives including additives. After curing, parts 3, 7, and the adhesives in part 5, are cut so as to expose a breach within part 7. In practice, cutting so as to expose a breach within part 7, may be accomplished with a band saw, vertical end mill, wide belt sander, router, sander, or other various common methods. The practitioner will want to consider the amount of heat generated per method of cutting, as heat will effect certain adhesives detrimentally.

With part 7 breached axially, part 9 may articulate laterally within part 7, forming a slide or pull. As such the Present Invention may function as hardware, and may be employed as a modular hardware unit, the sum of parts, 3, 5, 7, being planted upon, or embedded within objects or materials, and part 9 being employed in a modular manor with regard to part 11, and previously mentioned parts 3, 5, 7. Clearly part 3 may be omitted in the instance where part 3 becomes integral with the work being fabricated. Likewise, the clearance, or tolerance, between part 3, and part 11, may serve to enable axial movement, as well as lateral movement as required in certain applications.

Focusing further upon parts 3,5,7,9,11, it should become evident that by employing appropriate materials, and additional adhesives, the above mentioned parts would readily serve to form a non articulating joint between two or more objects. This would be esthetically pleasing in a high end art, or architecture work wherein a combination of articulating and non articulating variations of the Present Invention would be employed. As such, further variations of the preferred embodiment of the Present Invention serve to embrace a traditional perspective of joinery.

Part 13 provides an expedient and blind method of fastening part 11, to part 9. When part 13 (a wood or metal screw) is exchanged for a dowel, or spline, a seamless sense of true joinery may be attained. Further, by increasing the surface area between part 9, and part 11. the concept of joinery as described herein, will be embraced. This may be achieved by increasing the flat, circular, or angular surface area between parts 9, and 11. Likewise, a variant of parts 3, 5, 7, may be employed to embrace part 9, in similar manner, so as to appeal to a traditional sense of joinery, as depicted in FIG 2. Herein channel 15 is employed in part 11, channel 15 being filled with adhesives and or adhesives with additives to eliminate the need for part 13. The variation depicted in FIG. 2 is capable of rigidity as well as articulation.